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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NAGA:007

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A vehicle body structure according to claim 1, wherein:~~ of a periphery of a rear suspension, including a rear suspension base member, which receives an input load from the rear suspension, in a wheelhouse inner member and being formed by joining said wheelhouse inner member to a rear quarter inner member, said vehicle body structure comprising:

a coupling member for coupling said rear quarter inner member to an upper surface of said rear suspension base member for reinforcement,

wherein said coupling member comprises plate members and forms a closed cross sectional structure in consort with said wheelhouse inner member and said rear quarter inner member, and

wherein said coupling member includes a seat back inner member that is joined to said wheelhouse inner member to support a seat back of a vehicle seat, and forms [[a]] the closed cross sectional structure using part of the seat back inner member.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A vehicle body structure according to claim 1, wherein:~~ of a periphery of a rear suspension, including a rear suspension base member, which receives an input load from the rear suspension, in a wheelhouse inner member and being formed by joining said wheelhouse inner member to a rear quarter inner member, said vehicle body structure comprising:

a coupling member for coupling said rear quarter inner member to an upper surface of said rear suspension base member for reinforcement; and

a reinforcing member having an open cross section along, in which one of four sides of a cross-section thereof is open, extends thereof, the reinforcing member extending in a substantially vertical direction of the vehicle body and is being joined to said rear quarter inner member; and,

wherein said coupling member comprises plate members and forms a closed cross sectional structure in consort with said wheelhouse inner member and said rear quarter inner member, and

wherein said coupling member has flanges extending substantially in the vertical direction of the vehicle body and is coupled to said rear quarter inner member so that at least

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the flanges extending in the vertical direction of the vehicle body coincide with edge portions of said reinforcing member, ~~in which~~ along the one of the four side[s]] of the open cross section ~~is~~ open.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The vehicle body structure according to claim 2, of a periphery of a rear suspension, including rear suspension base members, which receive an input load from the rear suspension, in respective wheelhouse inner members and being formed by joining said wheelhouse inner members to respective rear quarter inner members, said vehicle body structure comprising:~~

~~—— a wherein the coupling member extending extends~~ in a width direction of the vehicle to couple upper surfaces of ~~said right and left~~ rear suspension base members together, which are located on the right and the left in pairs, and couple ~~said right and left~~ rear quarter inner members together, which are located on the right and the left in pairs, ~~said vehicle body structure wherein:~~

~~—— said coupling member is made up of plate members and forms a closed cross sectional structure over the whole gamut thereof.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle body structure according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 10, wherein~~[[:]~~ said coupling member includes a seat back inner member that is joined to said wheelhouse inner member to support a seat back of a vehicle seat and forms ~~[[a]]~~ the closed cross sectional structure using part of said seat back inner member.

6. (Currently Amended) The vehicle body structure according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 2, wherein~~[[:]~~ said coupling member further includes a rear shelf member and forms ~~[[a]]~~ the closed cross sectional structure using part of said rear shelf member.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The vehicle body structure of a periphery of a rear suspension, including rear suspension base members, which receive an input load from the rear suspension, in respective wheelhouse inner members and being formed by joining said wheelhouse inner members to respective rear quarter inner members, said vehicle body structure comprising:~~

~~—— a according to claim 4, wherein the coupling member including includes~~ a first coupling portion that couples upper surfaces of said rear suspension base members to said rear quarter inner members, a second coupling portion that couples upper surfaces of said rear suspension

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base members together, ~~which are located on the right and the left in pairs~~, and a third coupling portion that joins said second coupling portion to couple said rear quarter inner members together, ~~which are located on the right and the left in pairs~~, the coupling member being integrally formed, ~~said vehicle body structure wherein: and wherein said coupling member is made up of plate members, forms a closed cross sectional structure over the gamut, and has a bulkhead structure in a portion surrounded by said first, second and third coupling portions.~~

8. *(Withdrawn-Currently Amended)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 7, wherein~~[[:]]~~ said bulkhead structure ~~is formed by bringing~~ has a pair of plate members positioned close to each other, the plate members facing each other in the portion surrounded by said first, second and third coupling portions, ~~and joining the plate members~~ being joined together.

9. *(Withdrawn-Currently Amended)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 7, wherein~~[[:]]~~ said bulkhead structure ~~is formed by interposing~~ has an endless bulkhead member interposed between a pair of plate members so as to partition off said portion, the plate members facing each other in the portion surrounded by said first, second and third coupling portions.

10. *(New)* The vehicle body structure according to claim 3, wherein the coupling member extends in a width direction of the vehicle to couple upper surfaces of right and left rear suspension base members together, which are located on the right and the left in pairs, and couple right and left rear quarter inner members together, which are located on the right and the left in pairs.